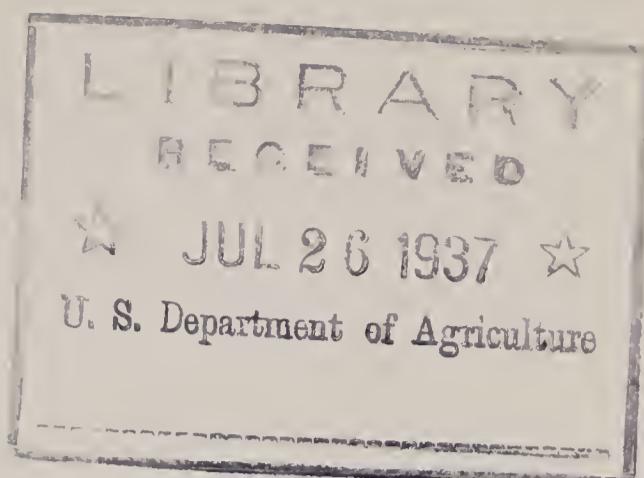


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# The What and Why of the Sandhills Project

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Hoffman  
North Carolina

LAND UTILIZATION DIVISION • RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# The What and Why of the Sandhills Project

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*Sandhills Land Use Project, Hoffman, North Carolina*

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## 1. What is the Sandhills Project?

The Sandhills Project is a Land Use Project of the Resettlement Administration, United States Department of Agriculture. Land Use Projects involve purchase by the government of large areas of substandard or so-called submarginal land, for the most part unsuited to successful farm crops, and the development of such areas for uses to which the land is best suited.

## 2. Size of Project?

62,000 acres.

## 3. Where located?

The Project is located in the Sandhills of North Carolina, in parts of Richmond, Moore, and Scotland Counties and is near the towns of Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Aberdeen, Raeford, Laurinburg, Wagram, Hamlet, Ellerbe, and Carthage. It is traversed by United States Highway No. 1 and the main line of the Seaboard Airline Railway. The project headquarters are at Hoffman. Within easy reach are a number of other towns in neighboring Robeson, Hoke, Montgomery, Cumberland, Anson, Stanley, Harnett, and Lee Counties. The project is only 2 or 3 hours' drive from Raleigh, Charlotte, and Wilmington.

## 4. Who is in charge of the Project?

The project is under supervision of the Resettlement Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, through the regional office at Raleigh, N. C. James M. Gray is Assistant

Regional Director in charge of Land Utilization Projects, and Frank W. Eatman, Hoffman, N. C., is the Sandhills Project Manager.

**5. When was the Project started?**

Land for this project was approved for purchase in August 1934 by the Land Policy Section of the Department of Agriculture. With the establishment of the Resettlement Administration in April 1935 the project became the responsibility of the Land Utilization Division of the Resettlement Administration.

**6. How is the Government paying for this land?**

Checks are being issued to the owners from whom the land was purchased as fast as the special attorneys of the Department of Justice can clear the title abstracts. Through June 1937 checks had been issued for approximately 46,000 acres.

**7. How many families residing in the area will be affected by the purchase of this land?**

Approximately 97.

**8. What will happen to these families?**

Some of them will be eligible for farms on farm tenant projects and other resettlement projects of the agricultural type. Others will be assisted on rented farms through the Rehabilitation Division of the Resettlement Administration, and others will remain on the project as wardens, caretakers and to do general work in maintaining the project. Some families have already used the money received for their submarginal acres to buy good land in locations better suited to farming.

**9. What is the attitude of persons living on the land purchased?**

The sale of this land to the Government is voluntary. Most persons are appreciative of a chance to dispose of their land, which for the most part is unfit for farming purposes, and to purchase and move to better lands elsewhere. Moving

to better land will enable them to reach a higher standard of living.

**10. What are the principal developments on the Sandhills Project?**

Forest development, recreational development, wildlife conservation, and general development.

**11. Of what does the forest development consist?**

A general program of fire breaks, stand improvement, tree planting and seeding where the need presents itself, timber harvest, fire control, seed collection, construction of vehicular bridges, park roads, truck trails, fire suppression, the construction of a warden's residence, and the construction and operation of a 175-acre nursery, which produces from 15 to 25 million forest seedlings per year for transplanting on this project and distribution to other federal projects in region IV of the Resettlement Administration. In addition to the forestry plantings, all ornamental shrubs that will be used on Rural Resettlement projects are being grown in the Hoffman Nursery.

As production from the nursery increases and the needs on Federal projects decrease, seedlings will be available for distribution to farmers interested in improving the forests on their farms.

**12. Of what does the recreational development consist?**

Under the heading of Recreational Development there have been built 10 cabins, completely furnished, with 15 additional cabins remaining to be built; caretaker's dwelling, complete; recreational pavilion, complete; lake for boating and swimming, camp grounds with camp fixtures, waste system, trailer camp and shelters. All of the above-mentioned constructions are located at Indian Camp Recreational Park. In addition to these recreational facilities, there is proposed a complete Group Camp for 4-H Clubs, various farm groups, Scouts, church groups, and other properly sponsored organizations.

This camp, when completed, will consist of a large building, 20 bunk houses, caretaker's dwelling, 15-acre lake, boathouse, piers, officers' quarters, washrooms, and craft shop. The camp as proposed will be located at what is known throughout this section as Millstone Camp, or "The Rocks."

### **13. What is included in the wildlife conservation work?**

The construction of McKinney Lake Dam, impounding 80 acres of water as the source of water supply for the twenty 1-acre fish breeding pools, which have been completed and are in operation, superintendent's residence, assistant superintendent's residence, combination office, garage and storage building, and Pine Forest Game Farm with a brooder house of ample size to take care of from 2,000 to 3,000 quail or turkey at one time with the necessary incubator house, fences, and coops to make a well-rounded game propagation plant. Two hundred food and cover plots of one-third acre each have been planted throughout the project area.

### **14. Of what does the general development consist?**

Preliminary surveys and maps, topographic surveys and maps in preparation of general development work, obliterating homesteads, sodding slopes and embankments, concrete bridges, culverts, garages, latrines, guard rails, power lines, sewer systems, telephone lines, water systems, entrance gates and markers, emergency landing field, road construction, earth excavation, landscaping and planting native shrubs and trees.

### **15. Why was the Hoffman Nursery established?**

The public and private need for forest seedlings to reforest cut-over lands, lands that are being taken out of cultivation and areas wholly unsuitable for agricultural purposes in this and other States and for general forest improvement provides an outlet for the millions of forest seedlings that are being grown in this nursery annually. These needs were evidenced to some extent by the large shipments of seedlings that were



Cabins, Indian  
Camp Park



Superintendent's house,  
McKinney Lake fish  
hatchery



Cabins



Entrance markers



Brooder house for propagation of turkeys and quail



Ornamental entrance to Indian Camp Park

Proper thinning of forest



Recreation building





Recreatio



Pavilion



Planting  
longleaf pine



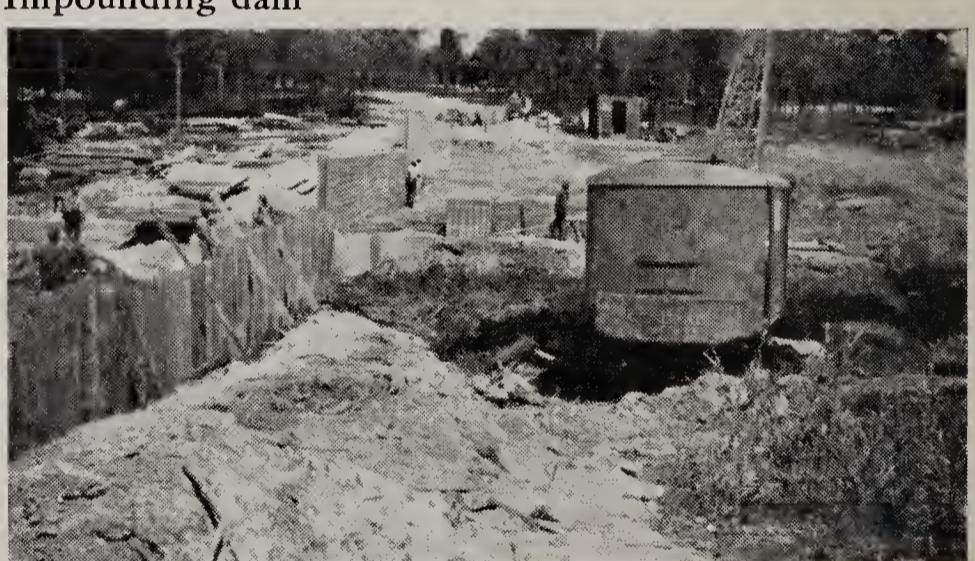
Oscillating irrigation system sprinkling  
175-acre nursery



Telephone line  
construction



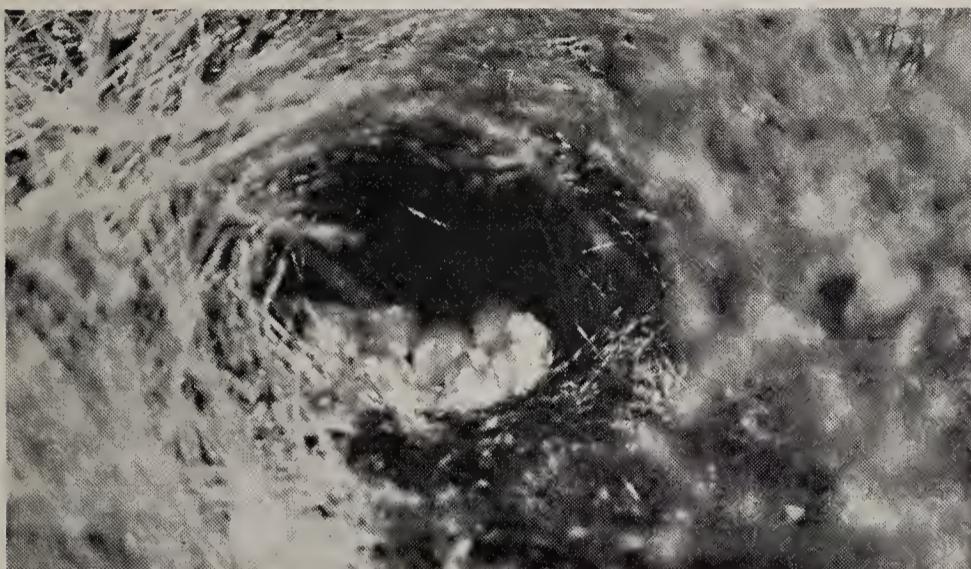
Fire lane construction



Impounding dam



Impounding dam



Quail's nest

McKinney  
Lake



Fish caught in  
McKinney  
Lake



made to approximately twenty different States during the last planting season.

**16. What agencies other than the Federal Government are sponsoring the proposed construction of Millstone Group Camp?**

County and town officials, women's clubs, civic clubs, school boards, churches, North Carolina Agriculture Extension Service, County Farm and Home Agents, and vocational agriculture teachers.

**17. How will Indian Camp Recreational Park be administered and to whom will it be available?**

Indian Camp Recreational Park for the present will be administered by the Federal Government and, when completed, will be available to the public upon the payment of a nominal fee for the use of the various recreational facilities. It is anticipated that when the general development program is completed it will be turned over to the Department of Conservation and Development, State Park Division, for administration as a State park.

**18. What agency will administer McKinney Lake Fish Hatchery?**

The Bureau of Fisheries of the Department of Commerce has already assumed management of the fish cultural work at this hatchery and will continue to operate it as a Federal hatchery for the propagation of fish for use through the southern section of the United States.

**19. What species of fish will be grown at McKinney Lake Hatchery?**

Bass, bream, crappie, and other warm-water species.

**20. Will fish from this hatchery be available for other lakes and streams in North Carolina?**

Yes.

**21. Will lakes constructed on this project be available for public fishing?**

Yes, when the lakes are sufficiently stocked with fish of a legal size, which should be in approximately 3 years.

**22. What type of game will be reared at Pine Forest Game Farm?**

Quail and turkey.

**23. Where will game be released?**

Game reared at this game farm will be released on the project in the designated game refuge areas which have been set aside for this purpose. Any surplus game will be distributed to other Federal projects.

**24. Will public shooting be allowed within the project boundaries?**

It is anticipated that the overflow of game from the designated refuge areas after a period of years will be sufficient to justify controlled shooting areas adjacent to the refuge areas. The overflow of deer from the nearby Fort Bragg Army Reservation will serve to establish and increase the supply of deer on the project without any artificial propagation.

**25. How are forest fires and fire control handled?**

This work is handled in joint cooperation between the Resettlement Administration and the North Carolina Forest Service. Modern methods of detection and fire fighting equipment are available for immediate action when forest fires occur. Trained personnel attack the fire and suppress it in as short a time as possible. All precautionary measures are enforced to prevent forest fires.

**26. What are the advantages of scientific stand improvement?**

Stand improvement is carried on for the purpose of securing a desirable forest from the standpoint of forest products and game management, both of which have been sorely neglected

in this area. This consists of removing undesirable species overtopping and hindering the growth of desirable species and the thinning of desirable species where growth has been retarded by competition.

**27. What are the advantages of the construction of 65 miles of truck trails?**

Truck trails are constructed approximately 1 mile apart for the purpose of making readily accessible any part of the area by truck or automobile for patrolling, for suppressing forest fires, and for future forest management.

**28. What are the advantages of the construction of 35 miles of telephone lines?**

Telephone lines are constructed for the purpose of having immediate contact between fire towers and forest fire fighting crews so there will be no delay in forest fire suppression. These telephone lines also serve for emergencies other than fires and for general communication throughout the area.

**29. In what way will the public ultimately benefit from the purchase and development of the Sandhills Project?**

The purchase and development of this area will serve as a demonstration of better uses to which land unsuited for farm crops can be placed.

The purchase and development by the Government of land unsuited to farming will keep this land from being settled in the future for farm purposes and it will give present owners an opportunity to dispose of their substandard land and to move to better land. Aside from the practical forestry development, wildlife conservation and the development of recreational facilities, all of which are for ultimate public enjoyment and benefit, the land use program, as exemplified by the Sandhills Project, is part of the Resettlement Administration's larger program to demonstrate ways and means for bringing about a condition where this country will have fewer farmers on poor land, more farmers on good land, and

more farmers on land of their own. Thus the purchase and development of the Sandhills Area will not only help the families directly affected by helping them to make a better living but—by the indirect beneficial effect on economic and social life—it will prove of general public benefit.

**30. From what source will revenue be made available to repay the Government for its expenditures?**

In a few years forest products will be available for sale to the private individual. This will increase annually under proper management. Recreational activities will also bring in a revenue from rental of cabins, pavilions, boats, concessions, etc., and hunting and fishing permits will bring in further returns.

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*Note to Visitors*

While on your visit to the Sandhills Land Project we urge you to feel free to ask any questions you may desire regarding the conservation work being done on this project.

Invite your friends to visit this project and see first-hand what is being attempted as a demonstration project to stress the needs for conservation of human and natural resources.

GEORGE S. MITCHELL,  
*Regional Director.*

JAMES M. GRAY,  
*Assistant Regional Director*  
*in charge of Land Utilization.*

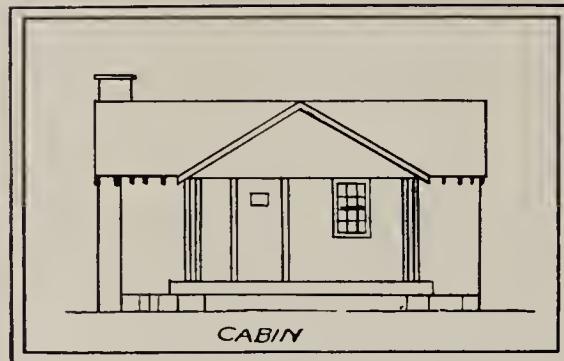
FRANK W. EATMAN,  
*Project Manager.*

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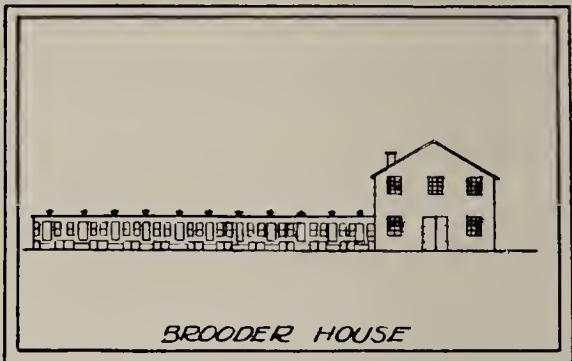
For further information consult Project Manager or Division of Information, Resettlement Administration, Region IV, Raleigh, N. C.

# SANDHILLS PROJECT

## LAND UTILIZATION DIVISION



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